

Protect Your Camper from Sexual Abuse

Sexual misconduct never takes a vacation. But your children will.

Before your child grabs a pillow, sleeping bag and other gear to head off for camp, make sure you talk to him or her about guarding against sexual abuse from not only counselors, but other campers, especially older ones.

Some steps to take to educate and protect your child:

Teach your child the correct names of body parts and that his or her body is off limits.

Tell your child to never keep secrets about someone touching them in the hands-off areas, regardless of what that person doing the touching says.

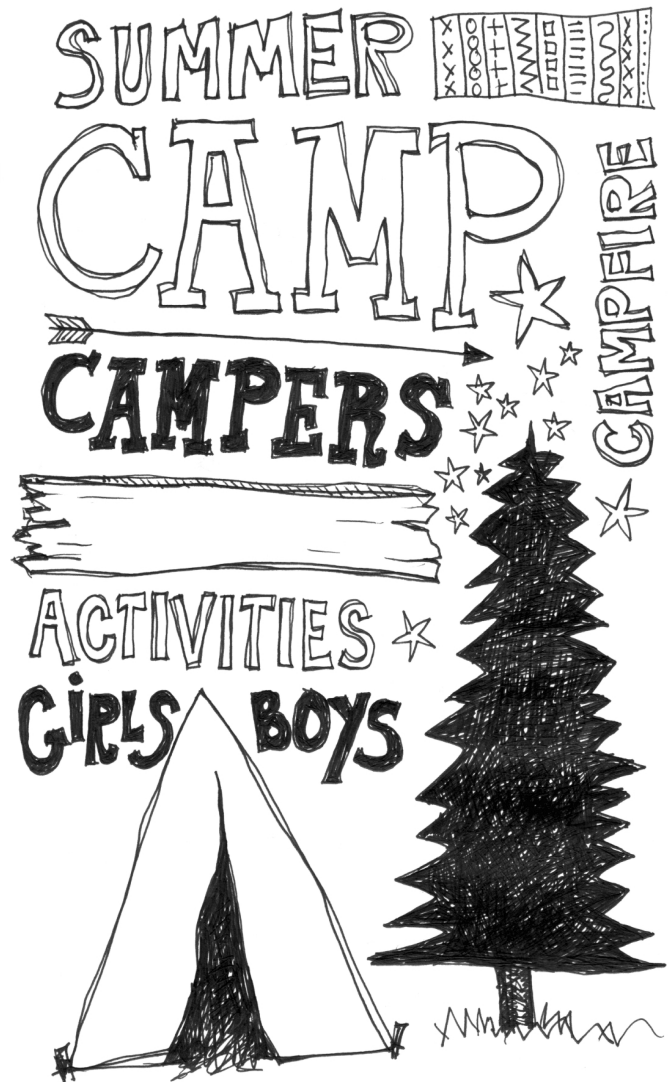
Encourage your child to listen to his or her gut. If someone makes you feel creepy, avoid being alone with that person.

Remind your son or daughter that they should never fear disclosing what happened for fear they did something wrong or the assaulting person will get into trouble. Sexual predators are master manipulators.

Believe your child if you are told abuse occurred. Praise him or her for being brave enough to tell you.

Before registering your child for camp, ask questions about the screening process for personnel and what type of training they receive about sexual abuse. Find out the sleeping arrangement of counselors for each cabin. Learn the warning signs of sexual abuse.

Talk openly about the topic. Sharing information can empower your child.



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1-800-552-7096 Virginia Child Abuse Hotline (language line available)
800-Children (800-244-5373) Parent Helpline

